

30 reasons never to leave Air Force

By Capt. Matteo Martemucci  
51st Operations Support Squadron

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea – I’m going to tell you why I’ll never willingly leave this great Air Force.

A few weeks ago, my first child was born more than 8,000 miles away in Virginia. He was born on the living room floor of our house a month early, to the great surprise of his mother and me. Both mom and baby are doing very well, and now I get to bask in the pride and excitement of being a new father.

After the excitement was over, I had time to analyze the sequence of events. I realized I was part of something very special — something I probably wouldn’t find outside the warm walls of this military family.

At 2:30 a.m., my wife, eight months pregnant and alone at home, awoke to feelings of pain. Her first instinct was to call a close friend, also a military spouse. Within minutes, Jean, an Army major’s wife from nearby Fort Monroe, Va., arrived.

Jean realized my wife was in advanced labor and called an ambulance. She also called Monica, a friend and Air Force major stationed with my wife at Langley Air Force Base, Va. With the help of these two friends and some local emergency medical technicians, my wife delivered a healthy boy in our living room. Jean and Monica are two reasons why I’ll never leave the Air Force.

Monica knew I was in Korea and immediately contacted the command post at Langley. They connected her to the Osan command post and explained the situation. On a hunch, Monica told them where I might be and, without hesitation, the Osan command post tracked me down at the base library. I may be wrong, but hunting down a captain to inform him of the birth of his son is probably not in the command post controller’s job description. But they did it without even blinking. They’re two more reasons why I’ll never leave the Air Force.

After being connected to my wife and being assured everyone was all right, I called my flight commander to tell him the news. Before I even asked, he contacted



USAF illustration by Joe Beach

our squadron commander and they approved my leave and offered to help get me home. They, too, are reasons why I’ll never leave the Air Force.

I needed to get home on the next flight to the states, and that meant getting on the Kimpo International Airport shuttle bus at 6 a.m. But I needed leave paperwork to get off the peninsula. My first sergeant, no stranger to late phone calls, jumped into action. He made one phone call and the orderly room NCO in charge was in her car heading to work to personally type up the necessary papers. With a smile on her face and hearty congratulations, she handed me my leave papers and disappeared into the freezing winter night. Two more reasons why I’ll never leave the Air Force.

The whole time during my long series of flights home, my wife had a close network of military friends who stayed with her. Even though her husband and family were far away, she was never alone from the moment she made that first and only phone call. These were all people who understood the unique situation of our shared military lifestyle. They immediately jumped in to help, as Air Force families often do.

Less than 36 hours after I received the first phone call, I was home with my new family. Waiting for me were flowers from my flight and reassuring e-mails that my duties and responsibilities were being handled in my absence. The people in my flight are 22 more reasons why I’ll never leave the Air Force.

If I was working for some big faceless corporation, I wonder if I’d even have my boss’s home phone number, let alone an entire organization that would jump up in the middle of the night to help a fellow airman.

Could I make more money working for a major corporation? Absolutely. Would the above events have happened if I worked for one? I doubt it. I promise you, the last thing on my mind that night as I boarded the plane to meet my new son, was the size of my paycheck.

Would I trade my part in this military family for a few extra bucks? Never.

I’ve shared 30 reasons why I’d never voluntarily leave our Air Force, and yet these reasons come from only one single experience. I could fill this story with hundreds of other reasons, and they’d all be Air Force people like these, whom my wife and I are proud to call family.



Photo by Senior Airman Lanie McNeal, 8th CS/VI

Breakin’ the ice

Lt. Col. Kenneth Rozelsky, 8th Operations Suppot Squadron operations officer (left), visits with Lt. Col. Kim, My-Kyum, 111th Fighter Squadron commander, during an icebreaker June 11 for the Maj. Gen. Eugene Eubank inspection team. The team was at Kunsan to evaluate the 8th Services Squadron for best in Air Force.


Commander’s Hotline

The commander’s hotline is your direct line of communication between me and the Wolf Pack. It’s one of several means of helping to resolve concerns and to get my response to comments and questions. As a general rule, I ask you to contact the agency involved first, but if you are not satisfied, call the hotline at 782-5284, e-mail the 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office or e-mail me directly.



Col. Burt Field  
8th Fighter Wing commander

<b>Who to call</b>	
Base exchange.....	782-4520
Chapel.....	782-4300
Civil engineer squadron customer service.....	782-5318
Commissary manager.....	782-4144
Computer help desk.....	782-2666
Fitness center.....	782-4026
Housing office.....	782-4088
Inspector General.....	782-4850
IDEA office.....	782-4020
Law enforcement desk.....	782-4944
Legal assistance.....	782-4283
Military equal opportunity.....	782-4055
Military pay.....	782-5574
Military personnel flight customer service.....	782-5276
Medical patient advocate.....	782-4014



**Wolf Pack WARRIOR**

**Editorial staff**

Col. Burt Field.....8th Fighter Wing commander

1st Lt. Miki Krejcarek.....chief, public affairs

1st Lt. Kelly Cahalan.....deputy chief, public affairs

MSgt. Will Ackerman.....superintendent, public affairs

SSgt. Heather Shelton.....chief, internal information

SrA. Brian Merrifield.....sports reporter

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas. Contents of the **Wolf Pack WARRIOR** are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office of Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, which is located at Building 1305. The public affairs address

is 8th FW/PA, PSC 2 Box 2090, APO AP 96264.

Deadline for submissions to the **Wolf Pack WARRIOR** is no later than Thursday, 4:30 p.m., one week prior to publication.

The preferred medium for submission is e-mail to [WolfPackWarrior@kunsan.af.mil](mailto:WolfPackWarrior@kunsan.af.mil).

Faxes and typewritten submissions are also accepted.

The voice mail to 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs is 782-4705.

The fax number is 782-7568.